

In the US, it is easy to get nostalgic while looking back 100 to 200 years ago. In Peru, where complex civilizations have existed for thousands of years, people may have quite a different perspective.

For example, the National Museum in Lima has textile samples that include knitted animals very similar to these ornaments from before Europeans ever made it to our "New World". People living 12,500 feet high in the Andes often had no access to trees or wood to carve toys, so they knitted. Even today many children learn to knit their own hats for the cold.

These whimsical animal ornaments make a positive impact in the lives of the women who hand-knit them as well as for the small-scale farmers raising the alpacas to make the yarn.

Our knitters earn extra income while taking care of their children and farms, where they grow potatoes, quinoa, or fava beans and raise a few animals. Thanks to Lucuma Designs' support with innovative designs, high quality standards and access to international markets, our knitters can earn more than they would by selling products in the competitive local market.

Learn more about our knitters at: Lucuma.com/artists



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